

Regional Council Activity Report

July 2, 1999



Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director James M. Bourey

Executive Director's Report

The Maricopa Association of Governments Annual Regional Council meeting June 23rd gave us a chance to celebrate our successes and evaluate upcoming challenges in the year ahead. The evening began with the annual meeting and election of officers, and was followed by the Second Annual Desert Peaks Awards celebrating regional excellence.

Because MAG Regional Council Chair Neil Giuliano was away attending a course for senior executives in state and local government, I had the unique pleasure of being called upon to deliver the State of the Region address. Preparing for this event gave me the opportunity to further reflect on the challenges and opportunities facing our region.

Rapid growth continues to create our biggest challenges — and our greatest possibilities. Here are just a few statistical highlights:

- Our region ranked fifth among major metropolitan areas in the rate of job growth, and today there are more than 1.5 million jobs in the region.
- Passenger boardings at Sky Harbor Airport climbed to 16 million, making it one of the busiest airports in the nation. To meet the needs of this growth, there has been significant construction and greatly expanded services at Sky Harbor.
- Residential construction continues at a rapid pace, with 39,000 units constructed last year alone. While this helps spur economic activity, it also puts increasing pressure on our public facilities.
- Agricultural land is disappearing at the rate of about an acre an hour. To help protect our open space, the MAG Desert Spaces Plan was initiated to conserve and protect our region's environmentally sensitive land.
- We made significant progress over the past year in providing transportation facilities, as 71 lane miles of freeway and 138 lane miles of streets were completed. MAG also developed a plan to accelerate construction of the regional freeway system for completion by 2007. However, transit services remain lacking, and we must develop adequate funding for an expanded regional transit system.

- Growth has fueled the demand for more schools. In the next 30 years, we will need to construct 360 elementary schools, 112 middle schools and 80 high schools.
- E-commerce may provide a convenient service for citizens, but it also takes a toll on cities' General Fund revenues. Cities will have to seek proactive and innovative ways to meet the ongoing demand for local services.

These are just samples of the good news/bad news situation brought about by regional growth. The Maricopa Association of Governments will remain dedicated to efforts such as the Valley Vision 2025 project to prepare to meet these challenges, and continue to honor partnerships which successfully address regional issues, such as those recognized during our Desert Peaks Awards.

As municipal leaders, MAG member agencies will continue to face both the challenges and rewards of living in a vital, dynamic, expanding and economically viable area. So let me use this annual opportunity to thank all of you again for your participation with MAG, for your support of our regional endeavors, and for your continued leadership in the Maricopa region.



Regional Council Annual Meeting Report for June 23, 1999

Election of Officers Includes Familiar Slate

A main focus of the MAG Regional Council Annual Meeting is the election of officers. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officer candidates that included all of the current sitting officers for re-election to the year 1999-2000: Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chairman; Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Vice Chairman; Mayor John Keegan, Peoria, Treasurer; Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler, At-Large Member; and Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale, Past Chairman.

The vote to elect the Regional Council officers as outlined above was unanimously approved.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.

Council Adopts MAG Serious Area Air Quality Plans

The Regional Council received staff recommendations on two air quality plans which are essential for improving air quality as well as for compliance with 1990 Clean Air Act amendments. The Maricopa region is currently designated as nonattainment for three pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide and particulates. The Regional Council was asked to approve plans dealing with two of these pollutants — carbon monoxide and PM-10, which refers to particulate matter. During an overview of the MAG 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan, MAG Environmental Manager Lindy Bauer reported that air quality is improving, with no exceedances of the federal standards for carbon monoxide in nearly three years. The 1999 Plan includes 56 committed measures from the state and local governments to help prevent future exceedances.

A similar overview was given for the MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan. The plan includes strengthening and enforcing Maricopa County's fugitive dust control rules, stabilizing or paving unpaved roads, using particulate-efficient street sweepers, placing controls on restaurant charbroilers, and utilizing agricultural best management practices. The plan demonstrates attainment of the PM-10 standards by the year 2006 as a result of 77 control measures.

Both plans were unanimously adopted by the council.

For more information, contact Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Council Accepts Changes to MAG Regional Freeway Program

Before the accelerated construction of regional freeways can begin, transportation engineers must first design them. That is one of the reasons that the Arizona Department of Transportation asked the MAG Regional Council to move forward \$20 million and to add \$7.9 million in funding (to \$27.9 million) for the 1999 MAG Regional Freeway Program. The money was originally scheduled to be spent in design during the years 2000-2014. But under the new, accelerated construction schedule, the design now needs to be completed in the years 2000-2004. The need for the design dollars also comes in the wake of a redesigned and improved project delivery system which mandates that general plans need to be completed to a 30 percent design level by the year 2003. The MAG Regional Council unanimously approved ADOT's requested changes.

For more information, contact Eric Anderson, MAG Freeway Program Manager (602) 470-1107.



Upcoming Issues

Census Bureau Allows Some Areas to Provide Information on New Construction — But Not Others

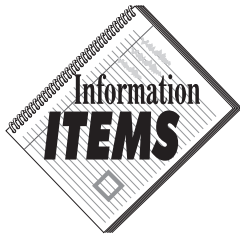
Cities won a major battle but not a complete victory in April, when the U.S. Census Bureau agreed to allow some communities to provide information on new construction in the three months prior to the census, but not others. Accounting for new construction is important, since an estimated 9,000-10,000 units will be constructed in the region in the 90 days prior to the census. Since people will be occupying those units, and the number of people counted equates to dollars from the federal government, it is in the cities' interests to make sure those units are included in the tabulation. The Census Bureau's New Construction Program applies to local governments whose residents will receive census questionnaires in the mail. The program does not include so-called "Update/Leave" areas, those areas in which the questionnaires are left at a housing unit and updated as necessary when the enumerator arrives at the address. The Census Bureau has argued that it is unnecessary to include Update/Leave areas in the New Construction Program, because the new construction is noted by the enumerator who physically visits the address. Still, many of these often-rural areas are concerned that some new units will be missed. The good news is that the local census office has asked that Update/Leave areas notify the local office of any new construction, and it will attempt to make sure the information is updated.

For more information, contact Harry Wolfe, MAG Socioeconomic Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Resource Allocation Advisory Committee Works to Divvy Federal Dollars

As part of a new programming process developed for Arizona under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), it is the shared responsibility of the State Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and transit operators to determine how federal transportation dollars will be divided. The Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC) met twice in June to begin the discussions which will impact the region's share of transportation funding for the 2001-2005 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RAAC is made up of the Arizona Department of Transportation's deputy director, director of planning, chief financial officer and state engineer, as well as the directors of two Traffic Management Areas, an MPO director, Council of Governments directors, and one Traffic Management Area transit director. The committee is expected to reach a consensus on actual figures late this summer.

For more information contact James Bourey, MAG Executive Director at (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Hundreds Honor Regional Excellence

Hundreds of attendees were on hand to celebrate as the Maricopa Association of Governments honored those committed to regionalism at its Desert Peaks Awards June 23rd. The awards honor excellence in regional cooperation between MAG member agencies, citizens, public agencies and the private sector. A special award was given to Governor Jane Dee Hull following the passage of a resolution by the Regional Council during the annual meeting. The resolution commends the governor for her work on behalf of the region — specifically her support of freeway financing legislation (SB 1201) and the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program.

There were five Desert Peaks Awards categories, which drew nominations recognizing individuals and organizations throughout the Maricopa region. Those selected as recipients in each category are listed below:

Public Partnership.

Automatic Aid Agreement. The cities of Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Guadalupe, Mesa, Phoenix and Tempe have developed a plan which provides automatic aid for fire protection and emergency services across jurisdictional boundaries. Automatic Aid is an agreement with neighboring fire departments to automatically respond with the closest available fire apparatus to an emergency incident. Automatic aid offers improved emergency service to citizens, providing families, friends and neighbors with the highest level of service — potentially saving lives by ensuring the closest available unit is dispatched within participating jurisdictions.

Public-Private Partnership.

WESTMARC. The Western Maricopa Coalition (WESTMARC) is a partnership of more than 400 business, community and government members representing 15 Western Maricopa County communities. WESTMARC was founded in 1990 to promote a positive image for the Western Maricopa County region and to lobby on the behalf of its member agencies. WESTMARC works to influence public policy to ensure quality growth and overall community development within a vital section of the Maricopa Region. The WESTMARC partnership has greatly enriched the lives of West Valley citizens and enhanced the quality of life of all West Valley communities.

Distinguished Service.

Katherine P. (Ginny) Hildebrand. Ginny Hildebrand currently serves as Executive Director of the Association of Arizona Food Banks. This organization works with food banks to strengthen communities in order to build a well-nourished Arizona. Ms. Hildebrand has been employed by AAFB since 1985, and has held the position of Executive Director since 1987. Called “the single most influential person in Arizona’s anti-hunger network,” Ms. Hildebrand works tirelessly to bring state agencies, corporate and religious communities, and other non-profits into the effort to nourish Arizona’s communities. Ms. Hildebrand is a member of the Department of Economic Security Hunger Advisory Council, the Arizona Community Action Association Food and Nutrition Advisory Committee, the Western Regional Council of Food Policy Advocates, and Bread for the World. She is the first woman to be an honorary member of the Boy Scouts of America and sits on BSA’s Board of Directors. Ms. Hildebrand has spearheaded advocacy efforts in Arizona that have resulted in the passage of legislation resulting in millions of dollars in appropriations for Arizona food banks. Nationally, she has played a lead role with other state and national advocates to retain support of commodity distribution programs for low-income Americans.

Regional Partnership.

Williams Gateway Airport. Seven years ago, the Department of Defense announced that Williams Air Force Base would be closed in September 1993 — a projected loss of \$300 million of economic activity. But the East Valley communities of Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and the Gila River Indian Community were determined to ensure the successful future of Williams Gateway. Through an intergovernmental agreement, the communities executed a joint powers agreement to contract for services in regard to ownership, development, reuse, operation and maintenance of the facilities — and eventually led to the creation of an airport authority. The successful development of the airport will benefit not only the East Valley, but the entire region.

Regional Excellence.

Mary Lynn Kasunic, Director, Area Agency on Aging, Region One. Mary Lynn Kasunic is Director of the Area Agency on Aging, Region One, which is the hub in Maricopa County in meeting the needs of all handicapped and older persons in the county. Under Ms. Kasunic’s guidance, the Area Agency on Aging carries out a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning, interagency linkages, information sharing, and enhancement of a community based elder-support system serving each community in Maricopa County. This system links older adults and persons with disabilities and long-

term care needs with programs and services to enhance their lives. During 1998, the agency served more than 50,000 people.

The winners were announced during a dinner and awards ceremony at the Airport Marriott hotel in Phoenix. KPHO-TV CBS 5 Anchor Darla Turner emceed the event. Presenters included Governor Mary Thomas of the Gila River Indian Community; Mayor William Arnold of Goodyear; Mayor Jay Tibshraeny of Chandler; Mayor Vincent Francia of Cave Creek; Mayor Sharon Morgan of Fountain Hills; Mayor Thomas Morales of Avondale; Mayor Mark Schnepf of Queen Creek; Mayor Colin Barleycorn of Litchfield Park; and Sara Moya, Former Desert Peaks Winner and 1999 Desert Peaks Award judge.

For more information, contact Kelly Taft, MAG Public Communications Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.

MAG Hosts 3rd Y2K Forum

On Tuesday, June 29, MAG held the third in a series of forums addressing the Year 2000 computer problem known commonly as "Y2K." Communication issues continue to be a major focus for the group, which heard a report from Valley public information officers on an informational brochure being developed to answer the most frequently asked questions. The brochure was formulated by a coalition of public relations representatives from cities across the Valley. The brochure is designed to be universal, providing Y2K information that is applicable to all residents of the region. The brochure is currently being printed and should be widely available within the next several weeks. It will also be accessible through MAG's Web site at www.mag.maricopa.gov.

During the meeting, the City of Phoenix also reported on a recent "Train the Trainer" forum it held for senior residents. Cities have received numerous calls from senior citizens who have been concerned about the potential Y2K crisis. Many seniors have already fallen victim to con artists preying on that fear. The idea behind the "Train the Trainer" forum was to provide information to a core group of senior leaders who can take the information back to their own groups for further dissemination.

Also at the MAG forum, Myron Kuklok, Risk Manager for the City of Scottsdale, discussed potential liability issues arising from Y2K computer problems and the best ways cities can minimize that risk. The next forum is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 30. All forums are held at MAG in the Saguaro room on the second floor.

For more information, contact Kelly Taft, MAG Public Communications Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Upcoming Events

MAG to Present Regional Needs Assessment to Governor's Task Force

The Maricopa Association of Governments has been asked to present an overview of the region's needs and resources to the Needs and Resources Subcommittee of the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force. The presentation July 8th will focus on the transportation needs facing the Maricopa region and how these needs might best be met. The presentation may be a precursor to a more in-depth exploration of needs when MAG hosts this group in an informative session to review the activities of MAG as a Metropolitan Planning Organization. MAG hopes to use the forum to discuss our transportation and air quality challenges. A date for the forum is still pending.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. Agenda items are expected to include proposed acceptance of the federal FY 1999 MAG Federal Funds Final Closeout and Amendment to the FY 1999-2003 TIP, as well as a Special Transportation Needs Study that identifies short term transportation options for low-income persons, cash assistance clients, elderly and people with disabilities.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.